

(KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The construction of the Radio Station has been completed. The preparatory work essential to its regular operation has also been substantially completed to ensure its early commissioning.

[English]

Price of Newspaper

2024. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the increase in price of the printing paper, the cost of newspaper is going very high;

(b) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for reducing the high price of newspapers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir, it may be one of the reasons.

(b) Government does not seem to have received any such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up Rake Points for Fertilisers Distribution

2025. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being adopted for setting up rake points in various states of the country;

(b) whether Union Government are considering to open up additional rake points to boost fertiliser distribution;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of additional rake points proposed to be set up in Madhya Pradesh during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The basic criterion for opening a rake point is minimisation of the transport cost to the economy. According to the guidelines fixed by the Ministry of Railways a rake point should normally be able to serve a hinterland upto 100 Kms and each rake point should have sufficient fertiliser traffic so as to receive two rakes or more per week.

(b) and (c) Development works are in progress to open rake handling points in Madhya Pradesh.

Leakage of Sulphur Dioxide Gas from Unialcaim Fertilizers Limited, Diwanganj, M.P.

2026. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Union Government had been drawn towards the damage caused to the crops of about one dozen villages near Bhopal and Raisen districts due to the leakage of sulphur dioxide gas, three to five times so far since December 10, 1987 from the Unialcaim Fertilizers Limited located at Diwanganj, 22 Kms. away from Bhopal;

(b) if so, whether any survey to assess the quantum of loss has ever been made;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken so far to check the recurrence of such gas leakage from this plant and to provide compensation for the loss suffered by the villagers in the form of crops and casualties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Fertilizer Plants under Construction

2027. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plants under construction in public sector pertain-

ing to fertilizers, pesticides and allied chemicals;

(b) the total outlay for each of the plants; and

(c) the amount of foreign loans raised for each plant and the annual interest thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) Information is given below:—

<i>Name of the Plant</i>	<i>Total outlay (Rs. in lakhs)</i>	<i>Foreign loans raised and rate of interest</i>
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Fertilizer Sector

1. Paradeep Phosphates Project at Paradeep.	63082	Swiss Franc 85,96,798 at the rate of interest of 9.25%
2. Methylamine Project of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF) at Thal.	1275	..
3. Di-Methyl Formamide Project of RCF at Thal.	988	..
4. Methanol Revamping project of RCF at Trombay.	1822	RCF contracted for loan with the IDBI and no direct foreign loan is involved. Interest on IDBI loan is payable in Indian rupees.

Pesticides Sector

5. Project of Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. for manufacture of Monoprotophos at Rasayani.	445.40	..
6. Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. Project for manufacture of Endosulphan Technical at Udyogmandal	2498	..